

WILLIAM M. THOMAS
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September 24, 2003

Dear High School Student:

I invite you to compete in "An Artistic Discovery," the 23rd Annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students. Each year, an exhibit of the winning entries, one from each congressional district in the United States, hangs in the corridor to the U.S. Capitol traveled by members of Congress and the public.

The contest is open to all high school students who reside in the 22nd Congressional District, which includes parts of Kern County, San Luis Obispo County and Los Angeles County. On my website you will find contest guidelines, a flier announcing the competition, and a student art release form to be completed and returned with each entry. Artwork will not be accepted without an accompanying release form.

All artwork must be submitted to the Bakersfield or Atascadero office by Friday, February 6, 2004 and will be returned immediately following the awards reception held in February. If your school is located in an outlying area of the district, please contact my Bakersfield office and my staff will make alternate arrangements with you.

The overall winner's artwork will be displayed in the hall leading to the U.S. Capitol and will receive an award of \$200.00. Airline tickets for the winner and a guest will be provided courtesy of Southwest Airlines to fly to Washington, D.C. in June to attend the exhibition opening of "An Artistic Discovery." Awards will also be given to those who place first, second and third in the following three categories: photography, computer art, and all other mediums. In addition, the first through third place winners will have the option of displaying their artwork in my Bakersfield office. Local art professionals will conduct the judging.

I look forward to seeing your artwork, and I will be on hand to congratulate the 22nd Congressional District's winning artists at the reception in February.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

WILLIAM M. THOMAS
Member of Congress

